



In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

## Weekly Weather Crop Report



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Week Ending September 21, 2003

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending September 21, 2003**. Producers throughout the State had a good week of row crop harvesting. Preparations are being made for winter grazing across the State. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 17 percent short, 56 percent adequate and 26 percent surplus.

| Progress In Percentages |                 |           |           |      |          | Conditions in Percentages |      |      |      |           |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------|----------|---------------------------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Item                    | Event           | This Week | Last Week | 2002 | 5-Yr Avg | Very Poor                 | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Corn                    | Mature          | 100       | 99        | 100  | 100      | --                        | --   | --   | --   | --        |
|                         | Harvested       | 92        | 85        | 91   | 92       |                           |      |      |      |           |
| Cotton                  | Open Bolls      | 82        | 74        | 91   | 77       | 2                         | 7    | 14   | 48   | 29        |
|                         | Harvested       | 17        | 9         | 16   | 22       |                           |      |      |      |           |
| Rice                    | Mature          | 95        | 84        | 96   | 94       | 0                         | 2    | 9    | 53   | 36        |
|                         | Harvested       | 65        | 52        | 63   | 63       |                           |      |      |      |           |
| Sorghum                 | Harvested       | 94        | 80        | 94   | 90       | --                        | --   | --   | --   | --        |
| Soybeans                | Turning Color   | 92        | 88        | 88   | 91       |                           |      |      |      |           |
|                         | Shedding Leaves | 78        | 70        | 76   | 77       | 0                         | 2    | 17   | 46   | 35        |
|                         | Harvested       | 59        | 50        | 44   | 41       |                           |      |      |      |           |
| Wheat                   | Planted         | 9         | 2         | 8    | 5        | --                        | --   | --   | --   | --        |
| Hay (Warm Season)       | Harvested       | 95        | 92        | 97   | 94       | --                        | --   | --   | --   | --        |
| Sweetpotatoes           | Harvested       | 40        | 35        | 29   | 37       | 0                         | 11   | 29   | 25   | 35        |
| Cattle                  |                 |           |           |      |          | 1                         | 4    | 18   | 60   | 17        |
| Pasture                 |                 |           |           |      |          | 0                         | 4    | 27   | 57   | 12        |

### County Agent Comments

Corn is cutting 150 bushels per acre and beans 40 bushels per acre. These look good but cotton is a little tough to get a handle on. Some of it looks real good but some it is hard to get a feeling for what it will pick. We are starting to defoliate everywhere. We will know in a week what to expect.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

Most of the summer hay harvest is complete. Pastures are beginning to dry. We need dry warm days for cotton to complete bolls. There is some armyworm activity in cotton. Corn harvest is slow due to high moisture.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

The cotton, rice, and soybean harvests were really picking up this past week. We received around 2 inches of rain this weekend. Hopefully this will move out and we can resume harvesting this week. Really good yields are being reported.”

— Andy Braswell, Leflore

“The cotton harvest has started, but growers are still defoliating. Some late planted fields have only just begun opening. Corn harvesting is almost finished, with most of the crop in good condition. Soybeans were damaged some by recent rains, but yields have been above average. Unexpected heavy rains over the weekend will hold up harvesting operations until the latter part of next week. Further rainfall combined with warm current temperatures may further damage cotton yields and quality.”

— Karen Benson, Attala

“Cotton harvesting is in full swing. However, growers are still defoliating. Corn harvesting is just about completed with good yields reported. Harvesting of early planted soybeans are also just about completed but yields are moderate to low. Producers need about two weeks of good weather to complete harvesting of all crops.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“Over 2 inches of rain has stopped all harvesting activity. Hopefully we will get some clear weather and start back to gathering. Yields on all crops have been good.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Rain began Sunday morning and continued until Monday morning. We received from 2.4 to 2.8 inches in the county.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Three plus inches of rain fell Sunday, which stopped harvest. Yields of all crops except rice are reported to be good to excellent. Rice yields are reported to be good but not as good as 2002 yields.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Rains moved in Sunday night with some locally heavy amounts received. Hay and corn harvest proceeded well during the week while soybeans are rapidly maturing. Some hay was caught on the ground with this recent rainfall. Pastures and cattle continue to be in excellent condition. Cows are putting on finish following late summer weaning and should be in great shape going into the winter.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Ground preparation for winter grazing is in full swing with the dry weather. Summer hay harvest is almost complete; quantity has been good, but quality will be low. Soybeans are beginning to turn color, and looks like it could be a good year if the weather holds.”

— Richard Hay, Amite

“We received much needed rain to get rye grass up and going along with cooler temperatures. Corn harvesting is also moving right along. Armyworms have hit several fields and are keeping farmers on the alert.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Good harvest week. Sunday rains shut down harvest for the early part of the coming week. Corn finished with above average yields and soybeans are coming in that way. Too early to tell about cotton. Pastures continue to do well for this time of year.”

— Terry Rector, Warren

“Rain started yesterday, 21st, and is raining hard at present. Main farming activities last week were ryegrass seedbed preparation and planting, hay harvest, and corn harvest.”

— Clayton Rouse, Lamar

“Sunday and Monday rains stopped the first cotton from being harvested. The rain was a welcome sight for the livestock and soybean producers.”

— Jon Kilgore, Lawrence

“Soil moisture conditions are getting critically dry. We need significant rainfall to replenish soil moisture for successful germination of cool season grasses and small grains for grazing. We started getting some light sprinkles Sunday afternoon that have continued through the night and into this morning. Cooler nighttime weather has been a welcomed relief to improve cattle performance and decrease activity of fall armyworms.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Peanuts are being harvested and yields look good. Cotton has suffered from some of the many rains we received this summer, but bolls are open. Pastures are declining in quality fast. Some cattle are losing some body condition due to forages being low in quality. Some areas of the county could use a rain to aid in the planting of ryegrass. Producers will be shocked at the price of ryegrass.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Producers took advantage of several days of drier weather to complete corn harvest and continue with cotton and summer hay harvesting. Ryegrass was also planted during the past week. Rain is predicted for much of the next week and field operations will once again cease.”

— Victor Lee Newton

“The weather has been great over the past several days for completion of winter pastures and corn harvest. Cattle are beginning to drop off some because of poor quality forages.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

“Hay harvest has been excellent due to dry weather which has allowed producers to cut and bale hay without the threat of rain. There will be more than adequate supplies of hay to carry beef cattle producers through the winter months.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

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Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

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Mississippi Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
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| Weather Summary from September 15, 2003 to September 21, 2003 for Mississippi |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |              |
|---|-----------------|-----|-----|------|-----|---------------|-------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| District/Station  | Air Temperature |     |     |      |     | Precipitation |       |           |            | 4 Inch Soil Temperature |     |     | Avg Pan Evap |
|   | Max             | Min | Avg | Norm | DFN | One Week      | DFN   | Rain Days | Four Weeks | Max                     | Min | Avg |              |
| 1. Upper Delta  |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |              |
| Charleston  |                 |     |     | 73   |     | 0.00          | -0.77 | 0         | 5.33       |                         |     |     |              |
| Cleveland   | 91              | 53  | 71  | 74   | -3  | 2.51          | +1.83 | 1         | 6.37       |                         |     |     |              |
| Tunica  | 88              | 54  | 72  | 73   | -1  | 0.00          | -0.63 | 0         | 2.10       | 86                      | 68  | 77  | 0.18         |
| Extreme/Average   | 91              | 53  | 71  | 74   | -3  | 0.84          | +0.07 | 0         | 4.60       | 86                      | 68  | 77  | 0.18         |
| 2. North-Central  |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |              |
| Batesville  | 89              | 49  | 70  | 72   | -2  | 0.00          | -0.77 | 0         | 1.27       |                         |     |     |              |
| Calhoun City  | 86              | 50  | 69  | 73   | -4  | 0.02          | -0.82 | 1         | 3.31       |                         |     |     |              |
| Independence  | 85              | 50  | 67  | 72   | -5  | 0.00          | -0.84 | 0         | 1.98       |                         |     |     |              |
| Oxford  | 87              | 49  | 69  | 72   | -3  | 0.00          | -0.88 | 0         | 1.63       |                         |     |     |              |
| Extreme/Average   | 89              | 49  | 69  | 73   | -4  | 0.01          | -0.87 | 0         | 2.05       |                         |     |     |              |
| 3. Northeast  |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |              |
| Booneville  | 84              | 56  | 71  | 72   | -1  | 0.00          | -0.87 | 0         | 2.70       |                         |     |     |              |
| Corinth City  | 86              | 48  | 68  | 73   | -5  | 0.00          | -1.02 | 0         | 2.91       |                         |     |     |              |
| Iuka  | 87              | 43  | 68  | 69   | -1  | 0.00          | -0.98 | 0         | 1.38       |                         |     |     |              |
| Ripley  | 85              | 49  | 67  | 71   | -4  | 0.00          | -0.91 | 0         | 3.75       |                         |     |     |              |
| Tupelo  | 88              | 54  | 72  |      |     | 0.00          |       | 0         | 3.45       |                         |     |     |              |
| Verona  |                 |     |     | 73   |     | 0.00          | -0.98 | 0         | 2.33       |                         |     |     | 0.30         |
| Extreme/Average   | 88              | 43  | 69  | 73   | -4  | 0.00          | -0.93 | 0         | 2.75       |                         |     |     | 0.30         |
| 4. Lower Delta  |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |              |
| Belzoni   |                 |     |     | 75   |     | 0.30          | -0.39 | 1         | 2.20       |                         |     |     |              |
| Rolling Fork  |                 |     |     | 75   | -1  | 0.00          | -0.70 | 0         | 1.68       | 90                      | 75  | 83  |              |
| Stoneville  | 93              | 52  | 74  | 75   | -2  | 0.00          | -0.80 | 0         | 3.44       | 91                      | 71  | 82  | 0.22         |
| Yazoo City  | 92              | 53  | 73  | 76   | -3  | 0.00          | -0.66 | 0         | 2.44       |                         |     |     |              |
| Extreme/Average   | 90              | 54  | 73  | 76   | -3  | 0.00          | -0.66 | 0         | 2.44       |                         |     |     |              |
| 5. Central  |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |              |
| Canton  | 93              | 52  | 73  | 75   | -2  | 0.08          | -0.69 | 0         | 2.44       | 91                      | 71  | 82  | 0.22         |
| Canton  | 89              | 50  | 71  | 75   | -4  | 0.00          | -0.70 | 0         | 4.18       |                         |     |     |              |
| Carthage  | 89              | 52  | 72  | 74   | -2  | 0.00          | -0.84 | 0         | 2.88       |                         |     |     |              |
| Lexington   | 88              | 50  | 70  | 74   | -4  | 0.05          | -0.65 | 1         | 3.31       |                         |     |     |              |
| Eupora  | 87              | 49  | 70  | 72   | -2  | 0.00          | -0.91 | 0         | 1.25       |                         |     |     |              |
| Extreme/Average   | 89              | 49  | 71  | 74   | -3  | 0.01          | -0.83 | 0         | 2.91       |                         |     |     |              |
| 6. East-Central   |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |              |
| Aberdeen  | 90              | 57  | 73  | 73   | 0   | 0.00          | -0.91 | 0         | 2.05       |                         |     |     | 0.21         |
| Houston   | 88              | 45  | 69  | 72   | -3  | 0.00          | -0.96 | 0         | 2.14       |                         |     |     |              |
| Louisville  | 89              | 54  | 71  | 73   | -2  | 0.01          | -0.90 | 1         | 3.32       |                         |     |     |              |
| State University  | 89              | 54  | 74  | 74   | 0   | 0.01          | -0.83 | 1         | 2.17       | 86                      | 54  | 79  | 0.29         |
| Extreme/Average   | 90              | 45  | 72  | 74   | -2  | 0.01          | -0.90 | 1         | 2.42       | 86                      | 54  | 79  | 0.25         |
| 7. Southwest  |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |              |
| Crystal Springs   | 89              | 56  | 74  | 76   | -2  | 0.00          | -1.05 | 0         | 3.04       | 91                      | 71  | 81  |              |
| Natchez   | 86              | 56  | 72  | 76   | -4  | 0.05          | -0.79 | 1         | 4.57       |                         |     |     |              |
| Oakley  | 94              | 49  | 75  | 75   | 0   | 0.30          | -0.40 | 1         | 1.80       | 91                      | 75  | 84  |              |
| Vicksburg   | 89              | 54  | 73  |      |     | 0.01          |       | 1         | 2.82       |                         |     |     |              |
| Extreme/Average   | 94              | 49  | 73  | 76   | -3  | 0.09          | -0.75 | 1         | 3.06       | 91                      | 71  | 83  |              |
| 8. South-Central  |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |              |
| Collins   | 89              | 55  | 74  | 75   | -1  | 0.00          | -0.98 | 0         | 2.44       |                         |     |     |              |
| Columbia  | 90              | 56  | 75  | 76   | -1  | 0.00          | -0.98 | 0         | 1.38       |                         |     |     |              |
| Tylertown   | 90              | 57  | 74  | 76   | -2  | 0.00          | -0.93 | 0         | 2.34       |                         |     |     |              |
| Extreme/Average   | 90              | 55  | 75  | 76   | -1  | 0.00          | -0.91 | 0         | 2.05       |                         |     |     |              |
| 9. Southeast  |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |              |
| Beaumont  | 93              | 53  | 75  |      |     | 0.00          |       | 0         | 1.40       |                         |     |     |              |
| Hattiesburg   | 89              | 55  | 73  | 77   | -4  | 0.00          | -1.00 | 0         | 2.22       |                         |     |     |              |
| Laurel  | 91              | 54  | 75  | 75   | 0   | 0.00          | -1.03 | 0         | 1.69       |                         |     |     |              |
| Newton  | 92              | 49  | 71  | 74   | -3  | 0.00          | -0.84 | 0         | 2.36       | 85                      | 66  | 76  | 0.19         |
| Extreme/Average   | 93              | 49  | 74  | 75   | -1  | 0.00          | -0.91 | 0         | 1.92       | 85                      | 66  | 76  | 0.19         |
| 10. Coastal   |                 |     |     |      |     |               |       |           |            |                         |     |     |              |
| Bay St Louis  | 93              | 54  | 75  | 77   | -2  | 0.44          | -0.81 | 1         | 4.80       |                         |     |     |              |
| Gulfport  | 88              | 60  | 77  | 78   | -1  | 0.07          | -1.42 | 1         | 5.68       |                         |     |     |              |
| Pascagoula  |                 |     |     | 77   |     | 0.09          | -1.47 | 1         | 2.81       |                         |     |     |              |
| Poplarville   |                 |     |     | 77   |     | 0.00          | -0.98 | 0         | 3.78       |                         |     |     | 0.26         |
| Waveland  | 89              | 58  | 76  | 77   | -1  | 0.18          | -1.38 | 1         | 3.89       |                         |     |     |              |
| Extreme/Average   | 93              | 54  | 76  | 78   | -2  | 0.16          | -1.10 | 1         | 4.19       |                         |     |     | 0.26         |
| State   | 94              | 43  | 72  | 75   | -3  | 0.09          | -0.80 | 0         | 2.73       | 91                      | 54  | 79  | 0.23         |

DFN = Departure from Normal.